

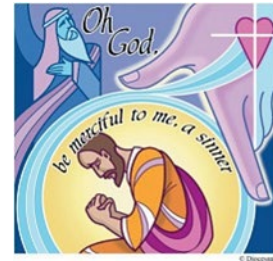
30TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME – YEAR C

Theme: “The Power of Humble Prayer”

Dear beloved Parishioners,

In this weekend’s Gospel, Jesus gives us a powerful contrast: A Pharisee who prays by praising himself, and a tax collector who simply says, “God, be merciful to me, a sinner.”

Jesus tells us: It’s the tax collector—the humble one—who goes home justified.



It’s a striking reminder: God isn’t impressed by pride or performance. He listens to the honest, humble heart.

The first reading from Sirach echoes this truth: *“The prayer of the lowly pierces the clouds.”*

God hears the cries of those who come before Him sincerely, with no masks, no boasting—just trust.

St. Paul, in the second reading, gives us a beautiful testimony. As he nears the end of his life, he looks back and says, *“I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith.”* Paul wasn’t perfect—but he was faithful. And in his trials, he learned humility. He says, “Everyone desert-ed me... but the Lord stood by me.”

That’s the heart of this Sunday’s message:

- ◇ God doesn’t need perfect people.
- ◇ He wants real hearts, open to grace.
- ◇ He honors the quiet, persistent faith of those who keep turning back to Him—again and again.

So, whether you feel like the Pharisee today—or the tax collector—know this: **God already sees you. He already loves you.** Come to Him with honesty, and He will lift you up.

This coming week, may we pray less like the self-assured Pharisee and more like the humble tax collector, saying simply: **“God, be merciful to me... a sinner who still believes.”**

God bless us all,

Fr. Albert and Msgr. Mike